

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Adhesive and sealant systems based on any of polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones, characterised in that they contain 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% of a compacted hydrophobic, pyrogenic silica, wherein the silica has been compacted by a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt and as a result of said silica being compacted in such way said adhesive and sealant systems are rendered thixotropic and the time required for incorporating said compacted hydrophobic pyrogenic silica into said adhesive and sealant systems is reduced compared to the time required for incorporation into said systems of silica that has not been compacted with a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt.
2. (Previously Presented) The adhesive and/or sealant system according to claim 1 wherein the silica displays a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l.
3. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing the time needed to incorporate compacted hydrophobic silicas into ~~thixotropic~~ adhesives and sealants in order to render them thixotropic comprising incorporating a compacted hydrophobic silica in the amount of 1 wt% to 15 wt% into a member selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates,

polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones; wherein the compacted hydrophobic silica has a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l, and wherein the silica has been compacted by a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt and as a result of said silica being compacted in such way said adhesive and sealant systems are rendered thixotropic and the time required for incorporating said compacted hydrophobic pyrogenic silica into said adhesive and sealant systems is reduced compared to the time required for incorporation into such systems of silica that has not been compacted with a roller compactor or by a pressing filter belt.

4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3 wherein the time needed to prepare the thixotropic adhesives and sealants is shorter than would be with compacted hydrophobic silica having a compacted bulk density of 50 g/l.